



Commonwealth of Kentucky Labor Cabinet

1047 US 127 SOUTH
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601-1975

Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Larry L. Roberts, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Daniel Lowry
502.564.3219
502.545.9089

National Office Furniture Earns SHARP Status for Excellence in Safety

Danville manufacturing facility is one of only 20 active Kentucky businesses in SHARP

DANVILLE, Ky. (May 28, 2014) – The Kentucky Labor Cabinet’s Commissioner of Workplace Standards Anthony Russell today presented National Office Furniture in Danville a plaque and a flag signifying the company certification under the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP).

Kentucky Labor Secretary Larry L. Roberts congratulated the manufacturing facility for its dedication to safety.

“National Office Furniture is now part of an elite group in Kentucky,” said Secretary Roberts. “The Kentucky Labor Cabinet works with employers every day to improve safety in the Commonwealth, but this facility stands out to serve as an example of how to approach safety with daily commitment and responsibility.”

National Office Furniture, a brand unit of Kimball International, Inc. (NASDAQ: KBALB), is an Indiana-based manufacturer of office furnishings. The facility, at Stewart Lane in Danville, is one of the company’s four manufacturing facilities in the country. National Office Furniture employs about 1,135 people nationwide, and has about 140 employees in Danville.

“Our company has a safety mantra: employees first; customers next; safety always!” said National Office Furniture Danville Plant Manager Chris Coffman. “That philosophy

comes alive on the efforts of our employees and management team, working together to provide a safe, healthy workplace. We commend them all for their dedication.”

Including National Office Furniture, there are 20 active Kentucky facilities certified under SHARP designation. To qualify, an employer must undergo a comprehensive evaluation and series of audits, correct any identified hazards, demonstrate that effective safety and health programs are in place, and maintain injury rates below the national average for its industry for the last three years.

The Danville facility has an average injury incident rate of 1.2 per 100 full-time employees during the past three years, which is 40 percent lower than the national industry average of 2.0 for the most recent year available. Those totals include total injuries that resulted in days away from work, restricted activity or a transfer to another job while recovering.

The U.S. Department of Labor designed SHARP to encourage and recognize excellence in occupational safety and health among employers and create a proactive partnership with its Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Although companies must meet federal standards for the program, the Kentucky Labor Cabinet presents the award, as Kentucky has operated its own federally-approved Occupational Safety and Health (KY OSH) program for more than 40 years.

Companies must have a safety and health program that involves all employees in finding and correcting existing or possible future hazards. SHARP’s certification is good for two years, and then the company is eligible for renewal. A company is exempted from scheduled KY OSH compliance inspections during the certification period, but partners with KY OSH to continue striving to improve its safety program.

For the benefits of SHARP, click [here](#). For more on the KY OSH program, click [here](#).

For details on National Office Furniture, visit www.nationalofficefurniture.com.

#

The Kentucky Labor Cabinet’s primary responsibility is to ensure that divisions and offices falling under the auspices of the Cabinet work within the jurisdiction of Kentucky labor law to ensure equitable and fair treatment of the Commonwealth’s more than 1.9 million wage-earning employees. For more information, visit www.labor.ky.gov/.

